

From the Liberator, June 14, 1844, I copy the following: L. S. M./x)

From the Boston Christian World.

Action of the American Unitarian Association.

The following are the Preamble & Resolutions, which were prepared by the Hon. Stephen C. Phillips, of Salem, & adopted by the A. U. Association, at an adjournment of its annual meeting, Friday, May 31, 1844.

Whereas, in the course of the year preceding the last annual meeting, upon the application of an Unitarian Society in a slaveholding State, a minister of unexceptionable character & qualifications was appointed by the Executive Committee of this Association to perform the duties of a Christian Teacher & Pastor to the said Society, and it was agreed by the Executive Committee that the expense of supporting ^{the} said minister should be defrayed in part by this Association; and whereas, the said minister upon reaching the field of his labors was not permitted to engage in the duties of the office to which he had been appointed; and whereas, the officers of the said Society, in a public circular, have seen fit to place their justification in this proceeding upon the ground that the said minister was supposed to entertain and to have publicly expressed opinions adverse to the institution of Slavery; and whereas, the Executive Committee, upon being informed of this proceeding of the officers of said Society, promptly gave notice to them that in view of this proceeding no further steps would be taken in reference to the appointment of a minister for the said Society; and whereas, this Association deems it its duty to review this extraordinary proceeding in the particulars which have been referred to, and to express ~~its~~ opinion upon the ground of action assumed by the officers of said Society, and the measures adopted by the Executive Committee; and whereas, the consideration of this subject was commenced by this Association at the last annual meeting, but not then concluded, and it is therefore necessary that it should now be prosecuted to final action; therefore,

Resolved, That while it is not deemed within the province of this Association, in the course of its ordinary proceedings, to entertain any question, or to adopt any measure, in relation to the institution of Slavery, it is felt to be duty, under the extraordinary circumstances of the case before us, to deliberate calmly & solemnly upon the subject as thus presented for our consideration, & to declare & record

MS.B.1.4 v.1, p. 58

2

the result of our deliberations.

Resolved, That in the consideration of this subject, we recognize the obligation devolving upon us, as a Christian Association, to proceed upon Christian principles, and in a Christian spirit, and to make it our triple object to 'speak the truth in love.'

Resolved, That, viewing the institution of Slavery in the light of Christianity, we cannot fail to perceive that it conflicts with the natural rights of human beings, as the equal children of a common Father, & that it subverts the fundamental principles of Christian brotherhood.

Resolved, That in the necessary efforts of Slavery upon the personal and social condition, and upon the moral & religious character of all affected by it, we perceive an accumulation of evils, over which Christianity must weep, against which Christianity should remonstrate, and for the removal of which Christianity appeals to the hearts & consciences of all disciples of Jesus, to do what they can, by their prayers, by the indulgence & expression of their sympathy, & by the unremitting & undissuaded exertion of whatever moral & religious influence they may possess.

Resolved, That in conformity to the views which have been expressed in the foregoing resolutions, it is impossible for this Association to recognize the principle that, in the case of any minister or missionary who may be aided or employed by the Executive Committee, it shall be deemed a disqualification for the performance of ^{appropriate} the duties of his office in any section of the country, that he is supposed, or known, to entertain, & to have publicly expressed, opinions adverse to the institution of Slavery; and that accordingly this Association approve & ratify the proceedings of the Executive Committee in the case which has been under consideration, & recommend the adoption of similar measures, in any similar case which may hereafter occur.

Resolved, That we commend this expression of our views to the candid & serious consideration of the Society, the proceedings of whose officers have furnished the occasion for the adoption of these resolutions, and that we hereby assure them that, in thus attempting to discharge the Christian duty of remembering those in bonds as bound with them, we have equally at heart the

best interests of our brethren, upon whom, as much as upon ourselves, rests the responsibility of illustrating the practical tendencies of the precious faith, ^{to} which we all owe a common attachment.

M.S. B.1.6 v.6, p.58